

Appl. No. 10/692,791  
In re Edmonmads, I.  
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 16, 2005

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Examiner is thanked for the Official Action dated November 16, 2005. This amendment and request for reconsideration is intended to be fully responsive thereto.

Claim 1 was objected to for a minor informality. Claim 1 has been amended, thus rendering this rejection moot. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, Examiner noted that claims 1-12 are omnibus type claims. Claims 1-12 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Moreover, claims 1-12 have been amended to correct minor informalities. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Milner (US 5,880,886). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1: in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the first and second cuts are cut through entire

thickness of the first and second sheets of transparent plastic, respectively. No new matter has been added. The antecedent basis for this amendment could found in Figs. 1 and 2, and page 5, lines 20-24 of the present application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art document does not meet the standard of anticipation as Milner fails to disclose the first and second cuts cut through the entire thickness of the first and second sheets of transparent plastic and the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls extending inwardly from the inner surfaces of the first and second sheets.

Contrary to the invention recited in claim 1, the device of Milner (as shown in Figs. 5 and 6 referenced to by the Examiner) includes two optical components 41, 42 each provided with grooves (no numerals) which are not cut through the entire thickness of the optical components 41, 42. Moreover, opposite walls of the grooves of the device of Milner are arranged at an acute angle relative to each other, not substantially parallel as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 2: Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art document does not meet the standard of anticipation as Milner fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls extending inwardly from the inner surfaces of the first and second sheets. Contrary to the invention recited in claim 2, opposite walls of the grooves of the device of Milner are arranged at an acute angle relative to each other, not substantially parallel to each other. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2.

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Claims 1 and 2 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cowling (US 5,295,051). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1: Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art document does not meet the standard of anticipation as Cowling fails to disclose the first and second cuts cut through the entire thickness of the first and second sheets of transparent plastic and the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls extending inwardly from the inner surfaces of the first and second sheets. Moreover, Cowling fails to disclose the step of fixing the inner surface of the second sheet in contact with the inner surface of the first sheet.

Contrary to the invention recited in claim 1, the apparatus of Cowling (as shown in Figs. 9-11 referenced to by the Examiner) includes the incident member 80 and the emergence member 85 spaced apart therefrom to form a gap therebetween (see column 8, lines 1-2 and 13-22; and Fig. 11-14), not in contact as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, air filled gaps 84 and 91 (or cuts) in the incident member 80 and the emergence member 85 of Cowling are not cut through the entire thickness of the members 80 and 85. Moreover, opposite walls of the air filled gaps 84 and 91 of the apparatus of Cowling are arranged at an angle relative to each other, not substantially parallel as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1.

Regarding claim 2: Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art document does not meet the standard of anticipation as Cowling fails to disclose the first and second cuts

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having two opposite, substantially parallel walls extending inwardly from the inner surfaces of the first and second sheets. Moreover, Cowling fails to disclose the step of fixing the inner surface of the second sheet in contact with the inner surface of the first sheet.

Contrary to the invention recited in claim 2, the apparatus of Cowling (as shown in Figs. 9-11 referenced to by the Examiner) includes the incident member 80 and the emergence member 85 spaced apart therefrom to form a gap therebetween (see column 8, lines 1-2 and 13-22; and Fig. 11-14), not in contact. Furthermore, opposite walls of the air filled gaps 84 and 91 of the apparatus of Cowling are arranged at an angle relative to each other, not substantially parallel as recited in claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2.

Claims 3-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Milner in view of Senzo Imai (US 3,393,034). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 3: The Examiner concedes that Milner fails to disclose the cuts made at the first and second sides of a sheet of transparent plastic. The Examiner then alleges that Senzo Imai teaches the intermediate plate (12" in Fig. 10) having cuts (19 and 19') made at the first and second sides of the intermediate plate 12".

As argued above regarding the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), Milner fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls. Senzo Imai also fails to disclose the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls. In fact, Senzo Imai clearly describes that the intermediate plate 12" has its

opposite sides formed with a plurality of prisms 17, 17' defined by faces 18, 18', 19 and 19' (see column 6, lines 32-36). As clearly shown in Fig. 10 of Senzo Imai, the faces 18, 18', 19 and 19' are not parallel to each other. Thus, even if the combination of and modification of Milner and Senzo Imai suggested by the Examiner could be made, the resulting light channeling panel still would lack the first and second cuts having two opposite, substantially parallel walls.

Moreover, Fig. 11 of Senzo Imai discloses the multi-piece light transmitting panel 11 including 3 separate pieces: a pair of opposed plates 12, 12' and the intermediate plate 12'', while the light transmitting panel as recited in claim 3 is made of a single sheet of transparent plastic. The device of Milner is also made of two optical components 41, 42. Again, even if the combination of and modification of Milner and Senzo Imai suggested by the Examiner could be made, the resulting method for producing a light channeling panel still would lack the step of cutting parallel arrays of first and second cuts through first and second face of a sheet of transparent plastic.

In addition, the prior art provides no suggestion or motivation to combine teachings of Milner and Senzo Imai.

Therefore, the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is improper.

Regarding claims 4 and 5: claims 4 and 5 depend upon claim 1 and recite additional limitations further defining the present invention over the prior art. More specifically, neither Milner nor Senzo Imai teach cutting of the grooves in their respective optical components with a laser or water cutting machine.

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Regarding claim 6: claim 6 depends upon claim 1 and recites additional limitations further defining the present invention over the prior art.

Regarding claims 7 and 9: claims 7 and 9 depend upon claim 2 and recites additional limitations further defining the present invention over the prior art. More specifically, neither Milner nor Senzo Imai teach cutting of the grooves in their respective optical components with a laser or water cutting machine.

Regarding claims 8 and 10: claims 8 and 10 depend upon claim 3 and recites additional limitations further defining the present invention over the prior art. More specifically, neither Milner nor Senzo Imai teach cutting of the grooves in their respective optical components with a laser or water cutting machine.

Regarding claim 11: claim 11 depends upon claim 2 and recites additional limitations further defining the present invention over the prior art.

Regarding claim 12: claim 12 depends upon claim 3 and recites additional limitations further defining the present invention over the prior art.

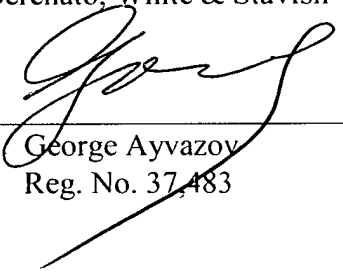
New claims 13 and 14 have been added.

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Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-14 define the invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe further discussion regarding the above claim language would expedite prosecution they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted:  
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